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For Immediate Release:

EIU'S PANTHER BATTALION INVITES STUDENTS/COMMUNITY TO FALL ROTC DAY

CHARLESTON - There will be no cause for alarm when the rifles start firing Thursday, Aug. 26, on the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

In fact, visitors are encouraged to come and join in the fun.

EIU's Army ROTC Panther Battalion will once again be hosting its annual fall ROTC Day – an occasion designed to give university students, as well as community members, an entertaining opportunity to take a look at life as an ROTC cadet.

The afternoon of celebration, set to take place from 2 to 5:30 p.m. on the field south of the Tarble Arts Center, will entail weapon and equipment displays, a helicopter and weapons firing. According to Master Sgt. David McKenney, civilians will have the opportunity to fire "blank" ammunition from both an M-16 rifle and an M-60 machine gun.

In addition, rappelling demonstrations will be given by cadets and students currently enrolled in ROTC classes. This event is scheduled to take place at nearby Klehm Hall.

National Guard representatives will be on hand, as will World War II re-enactors from the Charleston area.

A live radio (92.1, "The Buzz") broadcast will round out the day's activities.